

# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

17656(01172)

body portion and said finish portion, said container being adapted to hold a large volume of a liquid, being formed in a single piece by molding from a thermoplastic material that has at least an innermost layer of PET, said container further having no opening extending laterally therethrough and having a gripping feature formed by a spaced apart pair of opposed gripping panels that extend into said container in said body portion, the space (S) between said gripping panels being no more than 2-1/2 in.

wherein said body portion of said container has a cross-sectional configuration that is generally that of an oval with a larger, part-circular end and a smaller, part-circular opposed end;

said gripping panels extend into said container in said body portion from said opposed end;

said gripping panels extend into said container only partly to a longitudinal centerline of said containers; and

said body portion has a minor lateral extent (L) of at least 4 in., and a major lateral extent (ML) of at least 5 in., the major lateral extent extending perpendicularly to said minor lateral extent.

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(11) (Amended) A container, said container having a body portion with a closed bottom, a neck portion above said body portion, said neck portion tapering inwardly as it extends away from said body portion, and a closure-

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receiving finish portion, said neck portion being positioned between said body portion and said finish portion, said container being adapted to hold a large volume of a liquid, being formed in a single piece by molding from a thermoplastic material that has at least an innermost layer of PET, said container further having no opening extending laterally therethrough and having a gripping feature formed by a spaced apart pair of opposed gripping panels that extend into said container, the space (S) between said gripping panels being no more than 2-1/2 in.;

wherein said body portion is generally circular in cross-section, and said gripping panels extend into said container in said neck portion, and

said body portion has a diameter of at least 4-1/4 in.

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(18) (Amended) A container according to claim 4, wherein:  
said container is adapted for packaging a still beverage that is introduced, while hot, into the container and is sealed in the container by applying a closure to the finish portion of the container while the beverage is still hot, said body portion having a circumferentially spaced apart plurality of inwardly projecting panels for partial collapsing to accommodate shrinkage of the packaged beverage as it cools.

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20. (New) A container according to claim 11 wherein:

said neck portion is generally non-circular in cross-section with a large width end and a smaller width opposed end, said opposed gripping panels extending into said neck portion from said opposed end.

21. (New) A container according to claim 11, wherein:

said container is adapted for packaging a still beverage that is introduced, while hot, into the container and is sealed in the container by applying a closure to the finish portion of the container while the beverage is still hot, said body portion having a circumferentially spaced apart plurality of inwardly projecting panels for partial collapsing to accommodate shrinkage of the packaged beverage as it cools.